

IN THE CLAIMS

1 – 31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A communications system, comprising:

a first mobile unit operable to transmit a first content, wherein the first content comprises voice content received from a user of the first mobile unit;

a second mobile unit operable to transmit a second content, wherein the second content comprises voice content received from a user of the second mobile unit, the first and second mobile units participating in a conference call;

a plurality of base transceiver stations, each base transceiver station operable to:

receive the content from at least one of the mobile units;

determine a value for a metric associated with communications between the mobile unit and the base transceiver station;

generate a graded packet including the value and the content; and

communicate the graded packet; and

one or more routers collectively operable to:

receive a plurality of first graded packets including the first content and a plurality of second graded packets including the second content;

select one of the first graded packets based on the values included in the first graded packets;

select one of the second graded packets based on the values included in the second graded packets;

mix the first content of the selected first graded packet and the second content of the selected second graded packet to create a mixed packet including the first and second contents; and

communicate the mixed packet.

33 – 38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) A network device, comprising:
an interface operable to:

receive a plurality of first graded packets from two or more of a plurality of base transceiver stations, wherein the first graded packets include a first content received from a first mobile unit and a value for a metric generated by each base transceiver station, the metric associated with communications between the first mobile unit and the base transceiver station, wherein the first content comprises voice content received from a user of the first mobile unit;

receive a plurality of second graded packets from two or more of the plurality of base transceiver stations, wherein the second graded packets include a second content received from a second mobile unit and a value for a metric generated by each base transceiver station, the metric associated with communications between the second mobile unit and the base transceiver station, wherein the second content comprises voice content received from a user of the second mobile unit, the first and second mobile units participating in a conference call;

a processor operable to:

select one of the first graded packets based on the values included in the first graded packets;

select one of the second graded packets based on the values included in the second graded packets;

mix the first content of the selected first graded packet and the second content of the selected second graded packet to create a mixed packet including the first and second contents; and

communicate the mixed packet.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) A method for mixing packets, comprising:

receiving a plurality of first graded packets from two or more of a plurality of base transceiver stations, wherein the first graded packets include a first content received from a first mobile unit and a value for a metric generated by each base transceiver station, the metric associated with communications between the first mobile unit and the base transceiver station, wherein the first content comprises voice content received from a user of the first mobile unit;

receiving a plurality of second graded packets from two or more of the plurality of base transceiver stations, wherein the second graded packets include a second content received from a second mobile unit and a value for a metric generated by each base transceiver station, the metric associated with communications between the second mobile unit and the base transceiver station, wherein the second content comprises voice content received from a user of the second mobile unit, the first and second mobile units participating in a conference call;

selecting one of the first graded packets based on the values included in the first graded packets;

selecting one of the second graded packets based on the values included in the second graded packets;

mixing the first content of the selected first graded packet and the second content of the selected second graded packet to create a mixed packet including the first and second contents; and

communicating the mixed packet.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) Software for mixing packets, the software embodied in a computer-readable medium and operable to:

receive a plurality of first graded packets from two or more of a plurality of base transceiver stations, wherein the first graded packets include a first content received from a first mobile unit and a value for a metric generated by each base transceiver station, the metric associated with communications between the first mobile unit and the base transceiver station, wherein the first content comprises voice content received from a user of the first mobile unit;

receive a plurality of second graded packets from two or more of the plurality of base transceiver stations, wherein the second graded packets include a second content received from a second mobile unit and a value for a metric generated by each base transceiver station, the metric associated with communications between the second mobile unit and the base transceiver station, wherein the second content comprises voice content received from a user of the second mobile unit, the first and second mobile units participating in a conference call;

select one of the first graded packets based on the values included in the first graded packets;

select one of the second graded packets based on the values included in the second graded packets;

mix the first content of the selected first graded packet and the second content of the selected second graded packet to create a mixed packet including the first and second contents; and

communicate the mixed packet.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) A network device, comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of first graded packets from two or more of a plurality of base transceiver stations, wherein the first graded packets include a first content received from a first mobile unit and a value for a metric generated by each base transceiver station, the metric associated with communications between the first mobile unit and the base transceiver station, wherein the first content comprises voice content received from a user of the first mobile unit;

means for receiving a plurality of second graded packets from two or more of the plurality of base transceiver stations, wherein the second graded packets include a second content received from a second mobile unit and a value for a metric generated by each base transceiver station, the metric associated with communications between the second mobile unit and the base transceiver station, wherein the second content comprises voice content received from a user of the second mobile unit, the first and second mobile units participating in a conference call;

means for selecting one of the first graded packets based on the values included in the first graded packets;

means for selecting one of the second graded packets based on the values included in the second graded packets;

means for mixing the first content of the selected first graded packet and the second content of the selected second graded packet to create a mixed packet including the first and second contents; and

means for communicating the mixed packet.

46. (Cancelled)